

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 13481

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, US, UR, CCD
SUBJECT: US-USSR CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS, ROUND
EIGHT: DRAFTING GROUP MEETING NO. 3, SEPTEMBER 5, 1978

CW MESSAGE NO. 13

1. SUMMARY. THIRD DRAFTING GROUP MEETING OF ROUND EIGHT
WAS HELD TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1978. MEETING FOCUSED ON
(A) USE OF TOXIC CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL MUNITIONS IN PRO-
TECTIVE TRAINING, AND (B) PRODUCTION OF SUPER-TOXIC
CHEMICALS FOR MILITARY PURPOSES NOT RELATED TO CHEMICAL
WARFARE. BOTH SIDES REITERATED PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED
POSITIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. THIRD DRAFTING GROUP MEETING OF ROUND EIGHT WAS HELD
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1978. AS PREVIOUSLY AGREED,
MEETING FOCUSED ON TWO TOPICS: (A) USE OF TOXIC CHEMICALS
AND CHEMICAL MUNITIONS IN PROTECTIVE TRAINING, AND (B)
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PRODUCTION OF SUPER-TOXIC CHEMICALS FOR MILITARY PURPOSES
NOT RELATED TO CHEMICAL WARFARE. SALIENT POINTS ARE NOTED
BELOW.

3. USE OF TOXIC CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL MUNITIONS IN
PROTECTIVE TRAINING.

A. USDEL MEMBER (MIKULAK) SAID SOVIET DRAFT CONVENTION APPEARED TO PERMIT USE OF CHEMICAL MUNITIONS IN TRAINING. HE STATED THE U.S. WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THIS POSITION BECAUSE (1) THE NEED TO USE MUNITIONS WAS UNCLEAR, (2) VERIFICATION WOULD BE MADE MORE DIFFICULT, AND (3) RETENTION OF MUNITIONS COULD UNDERMINE THE COMMON OBJECTIVE OF ELIMINATING THE MEANS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE.

B. SOVIET ALTERNATE DEL HEAD (NAZARKIN) RESPONDED THAT QUESTIONS CONNECTED WITH CHEMICAL PROTECTIVE TRAINING ARE MATTERS WHICH EACH STATE SHOULD DECIDE FOR ITSELF. HE NOTED THAT THE CEILING OF ONE TON PER YEAR ON SUPER-TOXIC CHEMICALS WOULD PRECLUDE HOSTILE USE SINCE SUCH A SMALL QUANTITY WOULD NOT BE SIGNIFICANT IN COMBAT.

C. NAZARKIN ALSO REFERRED TO PREVIOUS U.S. REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE SOVIET POSITION ON THE SUPER-TOXIC CEILING. HE SAID THE SOVIET PREMISE WAS THAT THE U.S. AND USSR WOULD BE ALLOWED ONE TON PER YEAR. THEY WOULD NOT HAVE TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION TO THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, SINCE DOING SO WOULD LEAD TO THE DISCLOSURE OF MILITARY SECRETS. (HOWEVER, OTHER STATES WOULD BE ALLOWED LESS THAN ONE TON ON THE BASIS OF AN EVALUATION BY EXPERTS UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE).

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4. PRODUCTION OF SUPER-TOXIC CHEMICALS FOR MILITARY PURPOSES NOT RELATED TO CHEMICAL WARFARE.

A. MIKULAK SAID THIS APPEARS TO BE AN AREA WHERE THE TWO SIDES DISAGREE, SINCE THE U.S. PROPOSED TO PROHIBIT SUCH PRODUCTION WHILE THE SOVIET UNION WOULD RELY ON THE GENERAL PURPOSE CRITERION. HE ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE SOVIET STATEMENT THAT SUPER-TOXIC CHEMICALS FOR MILITARY PURPOSES NOT RELATED TO CHEMICAL WARFARE BE TREATED THE SAME WAY AS SUPER-TOXIC CHEMICALS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

B. NAZARKIN SAID U.S.' APPROACH COULD LEAD TO UNJUSTIFIED INTRUSION INTO FIELDS CONNECTED WITH NATIONAL SECURITY. THIS GENERAL COMMENT WAS FOLLOWED BY PRESENTATION FROM SOVIET EXPERT (CHEREDNICHENKO), WHO SAID THAT THE SOVIET SIDE DID NOT KNOW OF ONE SUPER-TOXIC CHEMICAL WHICH IS USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES, BUT NOT INTENDED FOR CHEMICAL WARFARE. SOVIET EXPERTS BELIEVED THAT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THIS SITUATION WILL CHANGE. CHEREDNICHENKO ASKED IF U.S. EXPERTS COULD PROVIDE ANY EXAMPLES.

C. MIKULAK AGREED THAT CURRENTLY THERE DID NOT SEEM TO BE ANY SUPER-TOXIC CHEMICALS IN THIS CATEGORY, BUT STRESSED U.S. CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS. HE ASKED WHY SOVIET SIDE THOUGHT U.S. PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE ADVERSE NATIONAL SECURITY IMPACT'

D. IN RESPONSE, NAZARKIN SAID THAT THE U.S. APPARENTLY WANTED TO ESTABLISH SOME KIND OF MEASURE TO VERIFY THAT SUCH CHEMICALS WERE NOT BEING USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES NOT RELATED TO CHEMICAL WARFARE. THIS WOULD LEAD TO INTRUSION IN AREAS NOT RELATED TO THE CONVENTION. HE SAID THAT IF THIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE U.S. POSITION WERE NOT CORRECT, THE SOVIETS WOULD BE VERY HAPPY. VANDEN HEUVEL

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